

(e) the losses/profit to FCI in supplying of rations to each region of the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) During 1996-97, wheat under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) was issued to 29 flour Mills of the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Out of 86,490 tonnes issued, 10,400 tonnes of wheat was lifted ex-Punjab, by the State Roller Flour Mills on the following prices:—

Sl. No.	Period	Prices of wheat in Rs. per MT	
		Srinagar	Jammu
1.	April to July 1996	4500	4500
2.	August, '96 to 17th Sept '96	4655	4655
3.	18th Sept '96 to 3rd Feb '97	5005	5005
4.	4th Feb '97 to 10th Mar '97	5300	5200
5.	11th Mar '97 to 31st Mar '97	5150	5100

(b) The following amounts were paid by the Food Corporation of India for movement of foodgrains to Kashmir:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1994-95	9.93
1995-96	27.04
1996-97	31.93

(c) At present the Food Corporation of India is transporting foodgrains from Jammu to Srinagar @ Rs. 75 per qtl.

(d) The issue price of foodgrains is the same throughout the country.

(e) Like other States, the foodgrains are supplied to Jammu & Kashmir at subsidised rates, subsidy being paid by the Central Government. Therefore, there is no question of loss or profit to FCI.

Lack of Sophisticated Packaging Technology in Food Processing Industries

3322. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:
SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA
MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lack of sophisticated packaging technology and high cost of packaging have acted as a barrier to the country's export growth in this Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the shortcomings in the food processing industries pointed out by the Chamber of Commerce and Industries and the losses suffered on this count during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether food processing and other agro based industries have been suffering a grave disadvantage vis-a-vis international competitors;

(d) if so, whether packaging in India costs upto 50% of the product, the manner in which it compares with the International standard and cost; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to overcome the shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b) Technology improvement is an ongoing process and scope always exists for its upgradation. enhancement of export depends on several factors including packaging. Export of processed food has been steadily increasing over the years.

(c) Growth of any industry including food processing and other agro based industries would depend on several factors such as quality of the products, competitive cost, sale price etc. Cost of packaging is one of the factors affecting the price.

(d) Packagings are of different types to suit the products packet and naturally the cost of packaging varies and is estimated to range from 15 to 30%.

(e) Various steps taken by the Govt. for promotion of food processing industries *inter-alia* include reductions of excise and customs duties on certain packaging materials like glass, paper and paper boards, aluminum foils and plastic. Ministry of Food Processing Industries

has also extended financial support for Research & Development activities related to packaging of processed foods.

[Translation]

**Demand and Supply of Fertilizers,
Seeds and Manures**

3323. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had assessed the demand of fertilizers, manures and seeds during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) if so, the quantum of fertilizers, manures and seeds needed separately, State-wise; and

(c) the quantity of fertilizers, manures and seeds

provided during 1996-97, 1997-98 and upto June, 1997 separately State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price control and for which assessment of demand and allocation of supplies is made at present. State-wise requirement of manures is not worked out. As far as seeds are concerned it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to organise supplies taking into account availability of seeds with farmers and through private sources. However, the Central Government steps in to assist the State Governments in making available supplies of seeds. A statement indicating the State-wise assessed demand/requirement and availability of urea and seeds during 1996-97 and Kharif 1997 and potential availability of compost/manure during 1996-97 is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Assessed demand and availability of urea and seeds during 1996-97 and Kharif 1997 and potential availability of Manures during 1996-97.

(Lakh tonnes)

Sl No.	State	1996-97					1997-98 (Kharif 1997-April to September 1997)*			
		Urea		Seeds		Manures	Urea		Seeds	
		Assessed demand	Availability*	Requirement	Availability	Potential Availability	Assessed demand	Availability* upto 30.6.1997	Requirement	Availability
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19.74	21.78	9.88	22.17	517.43	9.85	5.78	7.71	16.79
2.	Karnataka	8.90	9.40	5.03	5.70	362.02	5.50	2.96	3.52	3.31
3.	Kerala	1.33	1.47	0.46	0.47	88.44	0.70	0.45	0.17	0.17
4.	Tamil Nadu	8.95	8.97	3.30	3.37	381.04	3.40	2.40	1.89	2.70
5.	Gujarat	11.20	10.70	3.16	4.52	253.30	5.80	2.58	1.69	2.85
6.	Madhya Pradesh	13.06	12.93	6.71	6.35	817.28	6.95	3.32	3.74	3.78
7.	Maharashtra	17.10	17.32	7.90	8.22	512.51	11.00	5.65	6.00	6.12
8.	Rajasthan	11.00	11.98	3.09	4.59	454.41	4.60	2.79	1.24	1.27
9.	Goa	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.04	4.61	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.03